2 National Finance & Development Corporation for the Handicapped :-

With a view to promote economic rehabilitation of the handicapped people, it is proposed to set up a National Finance & Development Corporation for the Handicapped. The main objective of the Corporation would be to provide loans on easy terms to handicapped persons to promote self-employment. A provision of Rs. 1 crore has been kept for 1995-96.

3. National Institute for the Multiple Handicapped:—

It is further proposed to set up a National Institute for the Multiple Handicapped which would be a registered society to cater to the needs of the multiple handicapped persons. The institute would initiate programmes for manpower development, research and documentation. A provision of Rs. 0.24 crore has been kept for the purpose for 1995-96.

4. National Trust for the Mentally Retarded:—

A National Trust for Welfare of the Mentally Retarded is proposed to be set up with the objective to provide guardianship and foster care and protect the guardianship rights of the persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy. A provision of Rs. 1.25 crores has been kept for the purpose for 1995-96.

5. Legislation for the Handicapped:—

A draft Bill called "Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation), Bill 1995" is under consideration in order to ensure access to services like prevention, early detection and intervention, pre-school education, special education, vocational training, employment, placement etc. The Bill has been considered and debated upon in various for as including National Council for Handicapped Welfare and the Conference of State Welfare Ministers, Secretaries, Social Welfare of State Govts./UT Administrations and the senior officers of the concerned Ministries/departments of Govt. of India.

Creation of barrier-free environment

Easy access to people with disabilities in public places and public transport is considered essential. The achievement of this objective is not an easy task. The concerted efforts are required on the part of not only the Ministry of Welfare but also by related Ministries which have a bearing on the subject-matter like the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Surface Transport, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Rural Development, etc. To coordinate the efforts of various Ministries involved, a National Advisory Committee for creation of a barrier free environment has been constituted. The Committee sits from time to time to pursue the matter with the concerned Ministries. It also attempts to create public awareness which is considered vital. The proposed Legislation referred to above contains provisions relating to barrier free environment including user-fiendly transport.

Concessions/Facilities of various Central Ministries/Departments:

Concessions/facilities are provided by various Central Ministries like Ministry of Railways, Department of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Commerce, Department of Revenue, Department of Expenditure, Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Education, Ministry of Surface Transport, etc. Various State Governments/UTs also give concessions to handicapped persons like employment allowance, financial assistance for free/concessional travel in buses, scholarships, old age pension etc.

Growth in the production of Potatoes

4010. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of "Potato" in the country have

witnessed consistent growth over the past several years enabling to export large quantity to foreign countries;

(b) the State-wise details of annual production of potato during the Eighth Five Year Plan period upto the last season alongwith their corresponding details of the Seventh Plan period and annual exports thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that unlike other States, potatoes grown in West Bengal have been banned from export?

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the rationale behind continuing with the ban on export of potatoes from West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Except during 1992-93 when it was less than previous year.

(b) Information relating to production is given in Statement (See below). State-wise export of potato is not available. However; export of potatoes is given below :—

7th Plan (Tons)		8th Plan (Tons)	
87-88	3,166	91-92 . .	4,292
88-89	2,983	92-93 . .	5,674
89-90	not Available	93-94 . .	7,449

(c) Yes Sir

(d) and (e) The surveys conducted so far jointly by the scientists of ICAR; Diectorate of Plant Protection; Quarantine & Storage and State Agriculture Department; West Bengal have revealed the presence of Potato Wart disease in the State of West Bengal. Hence the ban on the movement of potatoes grown in the State of West Bengal is continuing.

Statement

State-wise annual production of potato during 8th plan and corresponding period of 7th plan.

(Production in '000 tonnes)

Name of the State	7th Plan			8th Plan		
	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Andhra Pradesh . .	4.2	6.3	6.1	5.2	8.4	N.A.
Arunachal Pradesh . .	20.9	21.9	27.2	35.5	37.8	
Assam	328.8	345.9	335.3	387.5	506.9	
Bihar	1523.0	1480.2	1453.1	1487.8	1609.1	
Gujarat	197.9	314.5	335.5	444.3	455.0	
Haryana	154.5	142.0	142.1	174.1	178.2	

1	2	3	4	5	
Himachal Pradesh . .	25.0	110.0	203.0	144.7	169.9
Jammu & Kashmir . .	2.0	2.8	2.3	2.9	3.2
Karnataka . . .	173.7	279.4	268.8	327.6	294.4
Madhya Pradesh . .	353.4	388.0	319.6	378.2	487.8
Maharashtra . . .	59.8	50.9	52.4	63.1	67.2
Manipur	11.4	12.1	22.6	20.4	20.4
Meghalaya . . .	145.4	71.1	109.7	119.6	119.6
Mizoram	1.0	2.2	2.5	1.1	2.5
Nagaland	6.0	5.0	6.0	23.0	16.0
Orissa	78.7	98.9	119.7	107.0	117.1
Punjab	540.9	625.1	363.1	823.0	823.0
Rajasthan . . .	17.2	28.3	32.6	24.6	19.7
Sikkim	26.0	31.6	33.6	32.3	32.3
Tamil Nadu . . .	209.7	104.6	114.8	125.1	125.3
Tripura	46.8	54.4	56.2	65.5	65.5
Uttar Pradesh . .	6331.4	6333.3	6227.8	5662.0	7704.0
West Bengal . . .	3787.0	4348.1	4531.6	4779.1	5171.6
Delhi	1.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.6

Primitive pattern of farming in North Eastern States

4011. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that farming patterns in North Eastern States are still in primitive;

(b) the alternative arrangement made so far to change the "Jhumming system" into modern cultivation system in the region:

(c) what is the contribution of ICAR based in the North Eastern Region to provide a new shape in this aspect;

(d) the area of land under "Jhumming Cultivation" in NE Region:

(e) whether Government are contemplating to give top priority to agricultural growth in the region: and

(f) if so, the details of the programme thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Scheme for Control of Shifting Cultivation was launched during 7th Five Year Plan in the Seven States of N.E. Region and Andhra Pradesh and Orissa with an outlay of Rs. 75.00 crore to settle 25,000 families. The scheme envisaged dvelopment of land (terracing) for agriculture and horticulture and subsidiary occupation for promoting settled agriculture. The scheme was transfered to the State Sector in 1990-91, as per the decision of the National Development Council (NDC).

Another scheme, namely Watershed Development Project in the Shifting Cultivation Areas of North Eastern India